

FIELD NOTES

American Widgeon Breeding near Massena: The Wilson Hill Game Management Area is an 1800-acre stabilized impoundment on which construction was completed in July 1958 by the New York State Conservation Department in cooperation with the New York State Power Authority. The area is five miles west of Massena, adjacent to the St. Lawrence Power Pool (Lake St. Lawrence).

The response by waterfowl since the initial flooding in 1959 has been exceptionally good. Blue-winged Teal, Blacks, and Mallards are the common nesting species, but Pintails, Shovelers, Wood Ducks, and Green-winged Teal are found in lesser numbers as breeding species.

During the late spring of 1960 a census of nesting pairs indicated that American Widgeon were established on breeding territories. The annual brood census conducted at Wilson Hill on July 7, 1960 substantiated the fact that these birds were breeding there. The following count was made at the West Pool:

American Widgeon, female	7 young; 1-2 weeks
American Widgeon, female	7 young; 2-3 weeks
American Widgeon, male (4 adults)	
American Widgeon, female	no young observed

On July 26, 1960, Dirck Benson, Waterfowl Project Leader of the NYS Conservation Department, sent a memo to us with regard to brood counts made by the Waterfowl Research Staff on July 18, 1960. This memorandum indicated that three broods of American Widgeon had been observed on the east pool of the Wilson Hill Game Management Area, but there was no reference to brood size or age.

These observations would indicate the establishment of a nucleus breeding population of American Widgeon on the Wilson Hill area. To the writer's knowledge, this constitutes one of the very few New York State breeding records for this species, at least in recent years (Ed. note — the American Widgeon appeared at Montezuma Refuge as a breeding species in the summer of 1959; see **Kingbird**, October, 1959, p. 126. As Sally Hoyt points out in her regional summary in this issue, the American Widgeon bred again at Montezuma this year. With the upkeep of suitable nesting habitat, it seems probable that this species will, like the Ruddy Duck, increase its nesting range in the eastern states. Are there other places in New York State where the American Widgeon is now known to breed?).— John E. Wilson, New York State Conservation Department, P. O. Box 84, Watertown.

A Partially Albino Hummingbird: On July 22, 1960, Mrs. Robert Meylan noticed an unusual hummingbird in her garden in West Nyack.

The bird was the size of a ruby-throat, but there was no iridescence or metallic sheen on its back. The back was a soft buffy tan, and the tail feathers were somewhat darker. The tail itself was rounded, the outer feathers being tipped with white. The crown was a light lemon yellow; the eyes and bill dark; the cheeks, throat, underparts, and wings pure white.

The bird would perch for five to ten minutes at a time in an apple tree while preening its feathers. Then it would dart out in true hummingbird style to feed, with wings aflutter, on the red flowers of bee balm. I succeeded in getting one good picture, a 35 mm ektochrome slide, taken with 300 mm lens, f8 at 1/100 second. I would judge the bird to be a female albino Ruby-throated Hummingbird. — Marjorie R. Hopper, 278 North Midland Avenue, Nyack 4.

Red-breasted Nuthatches Breeding in Rensselaer County: During the first part of September 1959 more Red-breasted Nuthatches than usual were seen in our section of Nassau, Rensselaer County. As many as eleven were counted on September 9 feeding on seeds under a stand of white pine. A pair was seen at frequent intervals throughout the winter at a suet feeder. With the arrival of warm spring days in April, 1960, I made daily trips to the pine grove. A pair was noticed almost every day, and on April 29 the male was feeding the female, indication of the possibility of a nesting pair. On May 10, after three hours of watching and